

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-21 and 34-49, and amend claim 50 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A sheath assembly adapted for use with an endoscopic insertion tube having a working end adapted to be inserted into a patient, the sheath assembly comprising:

a sheath including a body portion adapted to completely encapsulate the working end of the insertion tube and having a distal end portion adapted to be proximate the working end when the sheath assembly is positioned on the insertion tube;

a biopsy sampling device attached to the sheath and including a collection member proximate the distal end portion; and

a cover member attached to the sheath proximate the biopsy sampling device, the cover member being moveable between a first position at least partially covering the collection member, and a second position at least partially exposing the collection member.

23. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the cover member includes an actuator extending along at least part of the body portion, the actuator being moveably coupled to the body portion for controllably actuating the cover member.

24. (Withdrawn) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the cover member is slideably attached to the sheath.

25. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the biopsy sampling device is attached to the body portion.

26. (Withdrawn) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the sheath includes an enclosed end cap attached to the distal end portion, the biopsy sampling device being attached to the enclosed end cap.

27. (Withdrawn) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the sheath includes an enclosed end cap attached to the distal end portion, the enclosed end cap having an outer peripheral surface, the biopsy sampling device being attached to the outer peripheral surface.

28. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the collection member comprises a brush member.

29. (Withdrawn) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the collection member comprises a needle.

30. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the cover member is resiliently biased into the first position.

31. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22 wherein the cover member is hingeably attached to the sheath.

32. (Original) The sheath assembly of claim 22, further comprising a control member coupled to the cover member and extending along the body portion, the control member being moveable for controllably actuating the cover member between a first position and a second position.

33. (Previously Presented) The sheath assembly of claim 22, further comprising an actuation member coupled to the cover member and extending along the body portion, the actuation member being moveable in a first direction for controllably actuating the cover member into the first position, and being moveable in a second direction for controllably actuating the cover member into the second position.

34-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended). A method for obtaining a biopsy sample from a target within a body, comprising:

providing an endoscope including an insertion tube having a body portion terminating at a distal end;

inserting the insertion tube of the endoscope into a protective sheath that completely encapsulates a major portion of the body portion including the distal end, the sheath having a biopsy sampling device attached thereto that includes a collection member proximate the distal end of the body portion, the sheath further having a cover member proximate the biopsy collection member to at least partially enclose the collection member;

inserting at least part of the body portion of the endoscope including the distal end and the collection member into the body;

actuating the cover member to at least partially expose the collection member

engaging the collection member with the target; and

removing the body portion of the endoscope and the collection member from the body.

51-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein providing an endoscopic assembly comprises providing an endoscopic assembly including a sheath having an enclosed distal end and a biopsy the sampling device is attached to the sheath adjacent the enclosed distal end of the insertion tube body portion.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the biopsy sampling device comprises a biopsy brush attached to the sheath.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50 wherein providing an endoscopic assembly comprises providing an endoscopic assembly including a sheath having a cover member proximate the biopsy collection member, and wherein the method further comprises,

after inserting at least the collection member into the body, actuating the cover member to at least partially expose the collection member.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50 wherein inserting at least the collection member into the body comprises inserting the biopsy sampling device and a distal portion of the endoscope assembly into the body.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50 wherein engaging the collection member with the target comprises brushing a biopsy brush against the target.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50 wherein providing an endoscopic assembly comprises providing an endoscopic assembly including a sheath having a cover member proximate the biopsy collection member, and wherein the method further comprises, prior to removing the collection member from the body, actuating the cover member to at least partially enclose the collection member.